

Wednesday, September 6, 1989

## A&M cracks Top 25 Poll

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M, fresh off its 28-16 upset of formerly-seventh-ranked Louisiana State on Saturday, cracked the first regular-season As-

A&M, who faces the University of Washington on Saturday in Seattle, was not ranked in last week's preseason Top 25 Poll.

Notre Dame took over the No. 1 ranking with an impressive win in the Kickoff Classic, while opening losses dropped Southern California, Florida State and Louisiana State out of the Top 10.

The Fighting Irish, who routed Virginia 36-13 last Thursday, replaced Michigan in the top. Michigan opens at home against Notre Dame on Sept. 16.

The last time No. 1 met No. 2 was last Nov. 26, when top-ranked Notre Dame beat Southern Cal 27-10.

Notre Dame received 31 first-place votes and 1,430 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and sportscasters. Michigan was second with 18 first-place votes and 1,419 points.

Informed of the media's vote, Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz said: "I just hope they're right for a change."

Miami was ranked No. 3, followed by four other teams that have yet to play a game — Nebraska, Auburn, UCLA and Arkansas. Miami received four first-place votes, while Nebraska was No. 1 on six ballots. Oklahoma, Colorado and Clem-

son round out the Top 10. Oklahoma moved up seven spots after crushing New Mexico State 73-3. Colorado jumped from No. 14 to No. 9 after beating Texas 27-6 and Clemson rose from No. 12 to No. 10 following a 30-0 win over Furman, the defending Division I-AA champion.

Southern Cal fell from No. 5 to No. 13, Florida State dropped from No. 6 to No. 16 and LSU plummeted from No. 7 to No. 21 after losing their openers.

Illinois edged Southern Cal 14-13 Monday night. On Saturday, Florida State lost to Southern Mississippi 30-26 and LSU was beaten by Texas A&M.

The victories by Texas A&M and Southern Mississippi moved them into the Top 25, while Illinois jumped from No. 22 to No. 11. Southern Miss is No. 18, the Golden Eagles' first appearance in the AP poll since 1981.

Five teams dropped in the poll despite winning.

Arizona fell from No. 18 to No. 20, Houston from No. 21 to No. 22, Pittsburgh from No. 20 to No. 23, Brigham Young from No. 19 to No. 24 and North Carolina State from No. 24 to No. 25.

## Wallace steps out of shadows Senior linebacker leads young Aggie defense

By Richard Tijerina

Of The Battalion Staff

Aaron Wallace has lived in shadows before.

The senior Aggie linebacker was recruited by mistake, considered just a "raw" athlete by coaches his freshman year, fighting for playing time behind other big-name players and then became the lesser-known half of the tandem known as the Blitz Brothers.

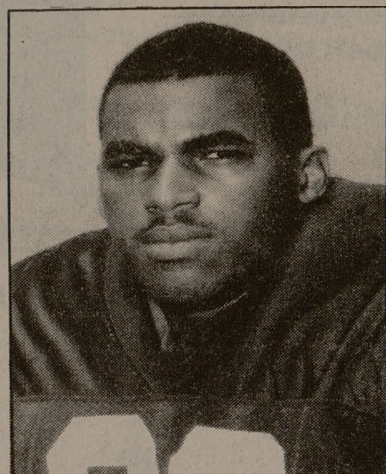
But this year is finally Wallace's time to shine.

Wallace is now just three quarterback sacks away from breaking Jacob Green's career school record of 37 sacks.

With three sacks recorded against Louisiana State, Wallace conceivably could break the record this weekend in Washington.

Wherever he breaks it, it probably won't be at Kyle Field, as the Aggies play Texas Christian next weekend in Fort Worth.

Wallace leads a talented but in-



Aaron Wallace

experienced group of linebackers, and now finds himself in a strange position: considered the leader of a young defense and, along with running back Darren Lewis, one of the anchors of the team.

In a season dominated so far

by talk of the inexperience on defense, Wallace saw his linebacking corps and defensive front line perform well against LSU.

"I was surprised from the beginning because I knew how (the new members of the defense) looked against our offense, but as far as playing against other people, I had never seen them play," Wallace said. "They came out and made a big impact. I knew they were good, but I didn't expect them to do as well as they did."

"We just came out hard and shut them down."

It looked more like a case of closing the door. With LSU bringing in two heralded offensive weapons that some considered as having outside chances at the Heisman Trophy — quarterback Tommy Hodson and running back Harvey Williams — Wallace and company disrupted the Tigers' offense and

See Wallace and photos/Page 11

### AP Top 25 Poll

Team	Last Week
1. Notre Dame	2
2. Michigan	1
3. Miami	4
4. Nebraska	3
5. Auburn	8
6. UCLA	9
7. Arkansas	10
8. Oklahoma	15
9. Colorado	14
10. Clemson	12
11. Illinois	22
12. Penn State	11
13. USC	5
14. Syracuse	13
15. Texas A&M	NR
16. Florida State	6
17. West Virginia	17
18. Southern Mississippi	NR
19. Alabama	16
20. Arizona	18
21. LSU	7
22. Houston	21
23. Pittsburgh	20
24. BYU	19
25. North Carolina St.	24

sociated Press Top 25 Poll, released Tuesday.

## Hold that remote, football fans: it's THAT time of year again

The last eight months have been mentally grueling, drudging, tedious, agonizing and . . . well, you get the picture. All that is over now. It's finally THAT time of year.

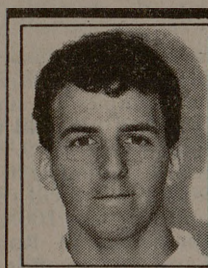
What is that time? It's the time of year mothers, wives and girlfriends loathe. It's the time of year fathers, husbands and boyfriends plant themselves in stadiums and in front of televisions to watch all the professional and collegiate football games they can get their hands on.

I hate to admit it, but they say the first step to recovery is admitting that you have a problem.

Okay, here goes.

I am a football addict. I need football. I love football and come every January, I mourn the loss of football.

Do the hospitals have a recovery plan for football addicts?



Clay Rassmussen  
Sports Writer

I guess I first realized my problem when I dragged my girlfriend to the Texas A&M-LSU football game an hour and a half before kickoff to bask in the glory of the first game of the Aggies' season. It had to be 100 degrees on Kyle Field. After sitting

through the first half, my date was quickly losing strength and had to spend time in the ramp, by the air vents to survive the game.

At first, I accompanied her, but after seeing the crushed look on my face at the possibility of missing a single play, she forced me to stay. By game's end, we were both dehydrated, but I hadn't had enough.

Afterwards, I grabbed her by her arm and dragged her across campus so I wouldn't miss any of the Cowboys-Oilers game. She made me painfully aware of my addiction with a dirty look and a thump upside my head.

I was crushed when the United States Football League folded. For a brief second in time, I was blessed with year-round football. No more waiting until the autumn for gridiron action. As things would have it, the USFL disbanded and I was stuck once again waiting months for a football fix.

I don't think being addicted to football is that bad. I think of those poor wives, girlfriends and mothers that live with baseball fanatics.

Does baseball season ever end? For that matter, how long is basketball season?

Television critics and anti-sport activists (you know who you are) scream every September that football is overexposed.

How's that, guys?

Not being a television programmer, I can't say exactly how much coverage football gets, but being a football

enthusiast, I have a good idea. Television covers maybe a few collegiate and possibly four professional games a week. One can turn on the television on any given weekday and find at least one baseball game. If we are going to label football as being overexposed, let's not discriminate baseball.

Actually, it all comes down to you. Man invented the remote control so that one doesn't have to sit through a football game if it isn't to his liking. And don't complain that there's nothing else on but football. Along with remote control televisions, man created cable for programming diversity. If every channel contained football, don't you think that every football addict including myself would know about it?

So, until the day comes that "Joe" opens his hospital for the criminally insane and sports addicted, you can find me parked in front of the television every Sunday until I'm positive that no more football is within my viewing reach.

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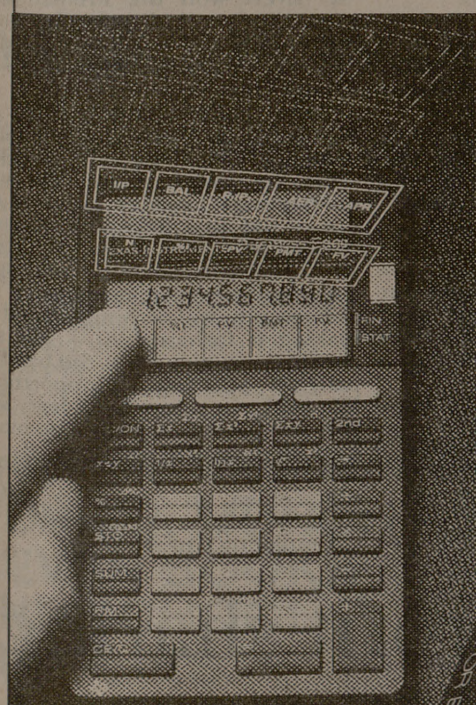
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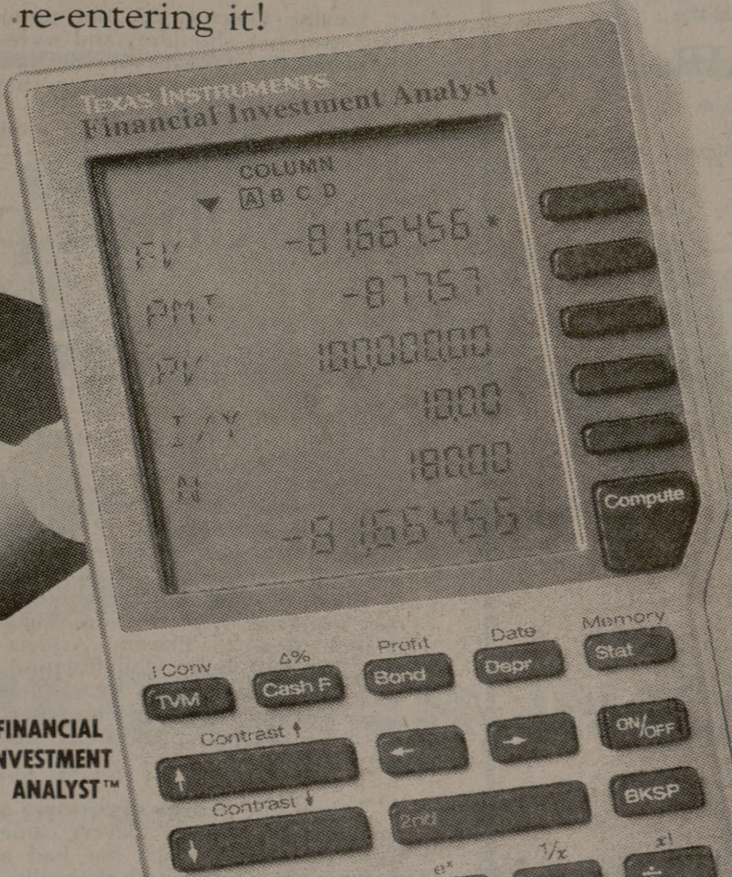
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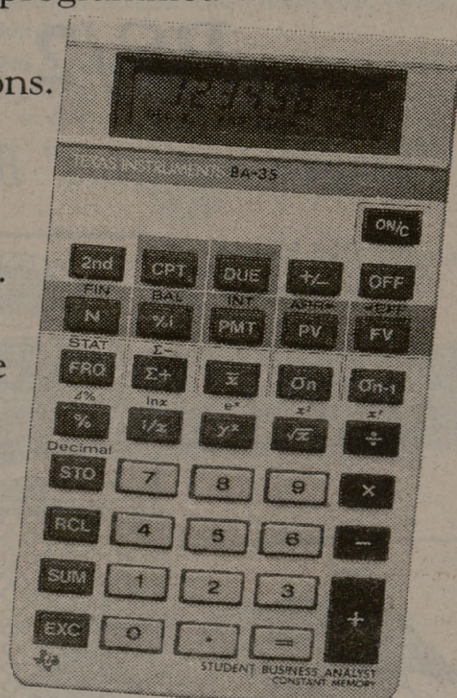
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